

A DISPATCH FROM THE IRAQ WAR BATTLE GROUND: AIR FORCE CAPTAIN F. JOHN DURESKY REMINDS US: AMERICANS ARE DYING IN IRAQ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD a column by Air Force Captain F. John Duresky, "Forgotten Sacrifice," which appeared in the July 5, 2006 edition of The Washington Post.

I have spoken out and written for more than three years about the unshared burden of the Iraq war but never as eloquently and with such forceful imagery as Air Force Captain Duresky. One of the "boots on the ground" in Iraq, Captain Duresky is among the troops President Bush likes to thank. He is one of the troops who, according to the Hawks willing to feed other people's children into the killing field of Iraq, smile bravely from a hospital bed at Walter Reid and promises that although he has lost both legs, he is happy he served his country and wants nothing more than to go back and join his "buddies" still "in country."

But Captain Duresky presents a problem for the President. Unlike most of the hawks who have not ventured beyond the safety of the "green zone" in Iraq or seen the carnage of the battlefield, Captain Duresky can describe the horror of war with the credibility of one who has been there.

I share Captain Duresky's concern that, to most Americans, the war in Iraq is a fight for other people's children. Disproportionately, these are the children of the poor and minorities who proudly serve but also risk their lives for their chance at a college education, technical training and financial benefits the military affords. For most Americans the Iraq war is little more than another story on the evening news.

I wish to offer some hope to Captain Duresky. To many Americans the war is not only real, but a great moral failure. Many of them are protesting and "taking to the streets." They are lobbying Members of Congress and meeting in their communities to arrange marches and protests. The polls clearly show the American people are unhappy with President Bush's handling of the war in Iraq. They want a change of course and they want the troops withdrawn.

The Republican attempt to label any plan to set a date for withdrawal as "cut and run" is not working. The Republican attempt to label anyone who questions the President as not supporting the troops is not working. Millions of Americans believe the best way to support the troops is to question the President's failed policies in Iraq and to force him and Secretary Rumsfeld to protect the troops instead of leaving them in as targets in a war where there is no exit plan and no working strategy.

I thank Captain Duresky for his service and his courage in writing "Forgotten Sacrifice." Millions of us have not forgotten his sacrifice and that of the more than 2,500 Americans killed and 18,000 wounded. Nor have we forgotten the daily pain of their families. I will keep Captain Duresky in my prayers and long for his return home.

Air Force Captain Duresky's words have painted an indelible picture for me. I hope my

colleagues will benefit as I have from reading "Forgotten Sacrifice."

[From The Washington Post, July 5, 2006]

FORGOTTEN SACRIFICE

(By F. John Duresky)

A few days ago, as I do every day in Iraq, I listened to the commander's battle update. The briefer calmly and professionally described the day's events. Somewhere in Iraq, on some forgotten, dusty road, an insurgent fighting an occupying army detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) under a Humvee, killing an American soldier. The briefer fielded a question from the general and moved to the next item in the update.

The day before that, in America, a 15-year-old's incredibly rich parents planned the biggest sweet 16 party ever. They will spend more than \$200,000 on an opulent event marking a single year in an otherwise unremarkable life. The soon-to-be-16 girl doesn't know where Iraq is and doesn't care. That same day an American soldier died in Iraq.

Two days earlier, a 35-year-old man went shopping for home entertainment equipment. He had the toughest time selecting the correct plasma screen; he could afford the biggest and best of everything. In the end, he had it installed by a specialty store. He spent about \$50,000 on the whole system. He has never met anybody serving in the military nor served himself, but thinks we should "turn the whole place into a parking lot." That day, another American soldier died in Iraq.

Three days earlier, some college students had a great kegger. There were tons of babes at the party, the music was awesome. Everybody got totally blitzed, and many missed class the next day. The young men all registered for the draft when they were 18, but even though our nation is at war, they aren't the least bit worried about the draft. It is politically impossible to conscript young people today, we are told. That day, another American "volunteer" died in Iraq.

Four days earlier, a harried housewife looked all over town for the perfect accessory for her daughter's upcoming recital. Her numerous chores wore her out, but she still found herself preoccupied. Her oldest son is having trouble in his first year of college, and he has been talking of enlisting in the Army. She is terrified that her child will go off to that horrible war she sees on TV. She and her husband decide to give their son more money so he doesn't have to work part-time; maybe that will help with his studies. That day, another soldier died.

Yesterday millions of Americans celebrated Independence Day. They attended parties and barbecues. Families came together from all across the country to celebrate the big day. Millions of dollars were spent on fireworks. At public events, there were speeches honoring the people who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. These words mostly fell on bored ears. While the country celebrated its own greatness, other Americans were still fighting in Iraq.

Today Americans go back to their normal business. The politicians in Washington have made sure the sacrifices of the war are borne by the very smallest percentage of Americans. They won't even change the tax rates to prevent deficits from running out of control. Future generations will pay the cost of this war.

Many Americans feel strongly about the war one way or another, but they aren't signing up their children for service or taking the protest to the streets. What can they do? It is they whom we in the military trust to influence our leaders in Washington.

Today, as on every other day in Iraq, American servicemen are in very real danger. Our country is at war. Mothers, fathers, wives, husbands and children are worrying about their loved ones in a faraway land. They all hope he or she isn't the one whose luck runs out today.

The writer is an Air Force captain stationed in Iraq.

IN MEMORY OF MAJOR GENERAL T. ESTON MARCHANT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 19, I learned of the death of MGT. Eston Marchant, Jr., and made the following statement:

It is with great sadness to learn of the death of Major General T. Eston Marchant. One of the highlights of my life was for him to help recruit me into the Army National Guard and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve for 29 years.

General Marchant was a model of military professionalism who established South Carolina's Army and Air Guard as among the most competent in the world's best military. They are now proving themselves by protecting American families in the Global War on Terrorism.

The Wilson Family extends its deepest sympathy to the Marchant Family.

The following obituary was published in The State newspaper of Columbia, SC, on July 20, 2006:

Major General Trelawney Eston Marchant, (Ret.), died Wednesday, July 19, 2006. He was 85. General Marchant was born December 9, 1920, a son of the late Brig. General T. Eston Marchant and Lila Cave Marchant.

General Marchant grew up in Columbia and received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of South Carolina. He enlisted in the Marines when the United States entered World War II, and fought in the Pacific Theater, rising to the rank of Captain. When he returned home he practiced law and began a long career in the S.C. National Guard. He was elected to the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees in 1965, and was elected Chairman of the Board in 1970, serving continuously thereafter until 1978, when he was elected Adjutant General of South Carolina. General Marchant served four terms as Adjutant General, retiring in 1994. The S.C. National Guard Headquarters and Complex in Columbia is named in his honor.

General Marchant was active in state and community affairs, serving as a municipal judge, President of the Richland County Bar Association, member of The Citadel Board of Visitors, and President of The Columbia Cottillion, among many other activities. He received honorary degrees from both U.S.C. and The Citadel. General Marchant was National President of the Adjutant Generals Association of the United States and, in 1990, he was named South Carolinian of the Year by WIS-TV. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by then-Governor John West and again by then-Governor Carroll Campbell.

General Marchant was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia.

General Marchant is survived by his wife of 54 years, Caroline Bristow Marchant; children, T. Eston Marchant III and his wife, Emilie Marchant, of Clinton, Bristow Marchant and his wife, Betsy Marchant,

Caroline Marchant Borucki and her husband, Dr. Robert Borucki, Nancy Marchant Harris and her husband, Gregory Harris; nine grandchildren, all of Columbia. He is also survived by his brother, Julian M. Marchant, and by his sister, Nancy Marchant McIlvaine.

General Marchant was a warm, loving husband, father, and grandfather, and will be dearly missed by all of his family and many friends.

The family would also like to offer special thanks to Mr. John House, who provided care and comfort to General Marchant in his final months.

The family will receive visitors at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Borucki, 181 Aspen Trail, in Gregg Park, Columbia, Thursday, July 20, from 5 until 7 p.m.

The funeral will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 1324 Marion Street in Columbia, Friday, July 21, 2006, at 11 a.m. with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the T. Eston and Caroline B. Marchant Endowed Scholarship, University of South Carolina, Attn. Daria Smith, 1600 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29208 or to the National Guard Association of South Carolina Scholarship Foundation, 2001 Assembly Street, Suite 204, Columbia, SC 29201.

Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, is in charge.

A TRIBUTE TO PACIFICA PERFORMANCES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the Pacifica Performances on the 30th Anniversary of its founding. Pacifica Performances is a non-profit, primarily volunteer, arts organization based in Pacifica, California, which is located in my Congressional District. This extraordinary organization is dedicated to ensuring there is a professional quality performing arts programs for the residents of Pacifica, as well as other communities on the Peninsula.

Pacifica Performances was organized in 1976 as the Pacifica Arts and Heritage Council, a nonprofit musical organization offering a variety of classes in music, dance and calligraphy. Its original venue, the Pedro Point Firehouse in Pacifica, offered Jazz and Classical performances for the community on Sundays. Since then Pacifica Performances has grown exponentially and occupied numerous homes

in the beautiful coastal community of Pacifica, California including St. Edmund's Episcopal Church and most recently the Sanchez Art Center which houses a 175-seat concert hall equipped with a new stage and professional lighting equipment as well as office space.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly amazing that this picturesque town of 44,000 inhabitants is able to provide its citizens with approximately 60 world class performances per year spanning the widest array of performing arts including jazz, blues, piano (ragtime and classical), chamber music, opera, Celtic, Bluegrass Latin, world, pop and guitar, as well as dance and drama. Pacifica Performances truly lives up to its mission of providing diverse musical and cultural programs to Pacifica, and the rest of the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in saluting and congratulating Pacifica Performances for the invaluable cultural and educational service they bestow upon the community on the occasion of their 30th Anniversary.